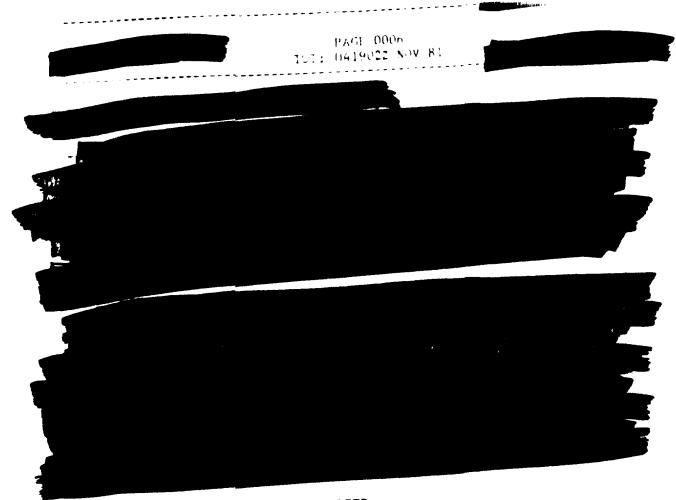


- 1. AT APPROXIMATELY 2330 HOURS LOCAL TIME ON THE EVENING OF 3 JANUARY 1981 THE FCLLOWING INDIVIDUALS WERE ASSASSINATED BY UNIDENTIFIED INDIVIDUALS IN THE DINING ROOM OF THE HOTEL SHERATOR IN SAN SALVADOR. ALL THREE WERE AT THE SAME TABLE DRINKING COFFEE AFTER HAVING COMPLETED DINNER TOGETHER.
- A. MIKE HAMMER, U.S. CITIZEN, SENIOR AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR FREE LABOR DEVELOPMENT (AIFLD) REPRESENTATIVE VISITING EL SALVADOR.
- B. MARK D. PEARLMAN, U.S. CITIZEN, AIFLD REPRESENTATIVE
- C. RODOLFO VIERA, SALVADORAN CITIZEN, DIRECTOR OF THE IN EL SALVADOR. SALVADORAN INSTITUTE FOR AGRARIAN REFORM (ISTA).
- 2. EYEWITNESSES HAVE IDENTIFIED TWO "TALL" INDIVIDUALS DRESSED IN KHAKI JACKETS AS THE GUNMAN. IT IS BELIEVED THAT ONLY HANDGUNS WERE USED IN THE ASSASSINATION WITH EACH INDIVIDUAL SHOT AT LEAST TWICE.

ASSASSINATIONS WERE COMMITTED BY ELEMENTS OF THE EXTREME RIGHT DUE TO THE THREE ASSASSINATED INDIVIDUAL'S CLOSE IDENTIFICATION WITH THE AGRARIAN REFORM PROGRAM IN EL SALVADOR. HOWEVER, WE CURRENTLY HAVE NO INFORMATION TO CONFIRM THIS ASSUMPTION.



## H. SALVADORAN MURDER SUSPECTS FREED

TWO SALVADORANS IMPLICATED IN THE 3 JANUARY 1981 MURDERS OF MICHAEL HAMMER AND MARK PEARLMAN, U.S. LAND REFORM SPECIALISTS, HAVE BEEN RELEASED FROM CUSTODY. RICARDO SOL MEZA WAS RELEASED IN EL SALVADOR BECAUSE OF LACK OF EVIDENCE. HANS CHRIST, SOL MEZA'S BROTHER-IN-LAW, WAS RELEASED ON BOND FROM A MIAMI JAIL ON 26 SEPTEMBER. CHRIST, WHO WAS ARRESTED ON 15 APRIL, WAS ORDERED TO STAY SEPTEMBER. CHRIST, WHO WAS ARRESTED ON 15 APRIL, WAS ORDERED TO STAY AWAY FROM AIRPORTS AND RAILROAD STATIONS AND TO TELEPHONE HIS ATTORNEY THREE TIMES A WEEK WHILE EXTRADITION HEARINGS CONTINUE. (U)

IN A POSSIBLY RELATED INCIDENT OF INTIMIDATION INVOLVING PEOPLE CONNECTED WITH THE CASE, AN UNKNOWN ASSAILANT TRIED TO KILL THE SON OF EL SALVADOR'S AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED STATES. THE ATTEMPTED ASSASSINATION OCCURRED TWO DAYS AFTER THE PUBLICATION IN EL SALVADOR OF A LETTER FROM THE AMBASSADOR TO SECRETARY OF STATE ALEXANDER M. HAIG OUTLINING NEW EVIDENCE IN THE MURDERS. (U)

